

UNIT 16 | SESSION 1

DANIEL OBEYED GOD

DANIEL 1



CHRIST CONNECTION: Daniel listened to God. Jesus also listened to God. When we trust Jesus, God sees us as perfect, just like Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- King Nebuchadnezzar took special things from God's temple in Jerusalem.
- The king took Daniel and his friends to work for him.
- Daniel and his friends obeyed God and ate the food God wanted. This made God happy.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: King Nebuchadnezzar went to Jerusalem and took some special things from God's temple. He also took some smart and strong young men too! The king wanted Daniel and his friends to work for him. The king gave them food from his kitchen, but Daniel knew that eating this food was not what God wanted. Daniel asked the king's helper, "Let us eat vegetables and drink water for 10 days. Then see how we look." After 10 days, Daniel and his friends looked healthier than everyone else! When the king saw this, he made them his special helpers. Daniel and his friends obeyed God; God was happy.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Daniel 1. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Skip to My Lou”:

“Do, do everything.
Do, do everything.
Do, do everything.
Do everything for the glory of God.”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘Do everything for the glory of God.’ When we trust Jesus, God sees us as perfect, just like Jesus. ”

2 TAKEN FROM THE TEMPLE

Secure toy foods (such as fruits and vegetables), large pom-poms, or other lightweight items to the wall or floor using tape or clear contact plastic. Invite the babies to grab the items from the wall or floor. For an added challenge, invite the babies to return the items to the wall or floor. Call out each item as the babies take or return an item. Say the first gospel gem as the babies play.

SAY “ Who took special things from God’s temple? Yes, the king! The king took special things from God’s temple, but God would return them. ”

3 PRETEND TO EAT

Gather toy foods, utensils, and plates and bowls. Show the babies how to mix the “foods” together and to pretend to eat the food. Play along, “eating” with the babies and encouraging them to imitate you. Make it fun by making sounds to show you enjoy the food. Say, “Mmmm, the fruit is yummy” or “Let’s mix the fruit with the spoon.” Read the third gospel gem as the babies pretend to eat their food.

SAY “ Did Daniel obey God? Yes! Daniel and his friends obeyed God and ate the food God wanted. This made God happy. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Daniel 1. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 SHOW AND TELL SPECIAL THINGS

Provide glitter crayons, glitter glue, and other decorating supplies for toddlers to decorate their papers with drawings of special things. Call out suggestions like books, toys, and so forth. Retell the Bible story, allowing toddlers to listen for the special things the king took from God's temple.

SAY “ King Nebuchadnezzar went to Jerusalem and took some special things from God's temple. What else did he take from Jerusalem? Yes! He took some smart and strong young men! We are special to God, and He loves us so much! ”

3 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Skip to My Lou”: “Daniel obeyed God. / Daniel obeyed God. / Daniel obeyed God. / Daniel obeyed and trusted God.” Sing the song a few times, allowing toddlers to play along with toy musical instruments and move to the music.

SAY “ Did Daniel obey God? Yes! Did Daniel trust God? Yes! Daniel and his friends trusted and obeyed God. They ate the food God wanted. God kept them safe from the king. ”

4 HOLD A HUNT

Move a few items around the room and place them in a different or unusual spot in the room. Lead the toddlers on a scavenger hunt for the misplaced items. Challenge toddlers to find the items and place them back in their “home.” Review the Bible story as toddlers find items.

SAY “ Who took the special items from God's temple? Yes, the king! The king even took Daniel and his friends to work for him, but God protected them. Daniel and his friends listened to God. ”

5 MATCH THE FOODS

Gather toy vegetables. Show and talk about the color of each item. Provide different colors of construction paper and guide toddlers to match each color of construction paper to the color of each food item. Invite the toddlers to place the toys on the matching colored construction paper. If desired, provide crayons for toddlers to trace the food shapes. Then encourage the toddlers to match the color and shape of each food item. Retell the story as toddlers match.

SAY “ Daniel was given food from the king's kitchen—food that God said His people should not eat. Instead, what did Daniel eat? Yes, he ate only vegetables and drank only water. After 10 days, Daniel and his friends looked healthier than everyone else! ”

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CHRIST CONNECTION: Daniel listened to God. Jesus also listened to God. When we trust Jesus, God sees us as perfect, just like Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: MAKE SECRET MESSAGES

Write secret messages (such as words from the gospel gems, short phrases related to the story, the Christ Connection, or the key passage phrase) on white paper with white crayon. Instruct children to use washable markers to lightly color the paper and reveal the messages. Read each message to the group.

SAY “ Daniel obeyed God even when it was hard. Jesus obeyed God when it was hard too. When we trust Jesus, God sees us as perfect, just like Jesus. ”

2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of “Skip to My Lou”:

“Do, do everything.
Do, do everything.
Do, do everything.
Do everything for the glory of God.”

3 FILL YOUR PLATE

Provide paper plates and food-themed stickers for toddlers. Write Daniel and his friends obeyed God’s rules about food on the plates. If stickers are not available, allow toddlers to draw their favorite vegetables on the plates. Review the Bible story as the toddlers decorate their plates.

SAY “ Daniel ate vegetables and drank water for 10 days. Daniel and his friends obeyed God; God was happy. Did God keep Daniel and his friends safe? Yes! God kept Daniel and his friends safe. ”

4 PLAY “FOOD OR NOT FOOD”

Display toy objects, toy foods, or display pictures of food and non-food items from books in the room. Hold up each image or item, and ask, “Food or not food?” Make it lively and silly as you hold up the non-food items. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY “ Can we eat a car? No, that is silly! We cannot eat a car. Daniel and his friends were given yummy food from the king’s kitchen, but they obeyed God’s rules about what was OK for them to eat. God was happy. God kept the four friends safe. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.